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**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Reported Legal Change in Labor Camp Organization

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2. The Communist regime in Bulgaria has liquidated labor camps as such in the country. These prisoners who were considered dangerous to the regime, the Communists accused of various crimes and tried in public courts - but in most cases behind closed doors. Such persons received prison sentences ranging from five years to life and were sent back to labor camps as prisoners. Formerly they had been kept as internees without any process of the law.
3. A certain percentage of labor camp internees were transferred to district jails pending investigations. They are still waiting for their trials.
4. A very small percentage of the internees were released and sent home to give the impression that camps had been dissolved.
5. There are known cases where internees, after being transferred to prisons, were advised to accuse themselves of the crimes, or one of the crimes, for which the State was accusing them. Such people were told bluntly that no investigation would be made whether they had committed such a crime but since they were known enemies of the regime legal means had to be found to deprive them of their freedom. For months these people were pressed to admit such crimes, and it is known that many of them did admit them finally. They had the privilege of choosing the crime for which they were eventually sentenced.
6. Now labor camps operate as before, but are considered to be corrective institutions for criminal elements only. No 'internees' are to be found there.

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